

## The Independent Living Strategy

### Decisions

1. *Members are asked to note the report which outlines the work of the Government's work on independent living, as background to a presentation by Jenny Morris, Executive Director of the Independent Living Strategy.*

### Actions Required

2. *Members to indicate any views that could inform the LGA's response to the current consultation on the independent living strategy*

**Action by:** *Board Members*

*Contact Officer: emma.jenkins@lga.gov.uk*

## The Independent Living Strategy

### Summary

1. *The Government's Office for Disability Issues launched a five year plan in March which looked at how independent living could be delivered for disabled people both nationally and locally.*
2. *This report summarises the recommendations from the strategy for local government and informs members of a current consultation that looks at implementation and involvement.*

### Background

3. *The 2005 Cabinet Office report Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People outlined the vision that, by 2025, disabled people should have the same opportunities and choices as non-disabled people and be respected and included as equal members of society.*
4. *The report identified a lack of coordination between government departments in ways policy is developed and services are delivered for disabled people and recommended that an Office for Disability Issues (ODI) be set up to ensure that all government departments were involved in the implementation of the Life Chances report.*
5. *Following another recommendation in the report, the ODI set up the Independent Living Review in July 2006 to develop strategy for independent living, working with government departments, an expert panel, and disabled people more widely. It was steered by an Independent Living Expert Panel, including representatives from the statutory and third sector. Local Government was represented by John Dixon, now president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. Its Executive Director was Jenny Morris, an independent living expert.*
6. *The Independent Living Strategy for disabled people was launched on 3 March 2008. This sets out a five-year plan that seeks to ensure that all disabled people should be able to live autonomous lives and to have the same choice, freedom, dignity and control over their lives as non-disabled people. The aim of the strategy is that:*
  - *disabled people (including older disabled people) who need support to go about their daily lives will have greater choice and control over how support is provided.*
  - *disabled people (including older disabled people) will have greater access to housing, education, employment, leisure and transport opportunities and to participation in family and community life.*
7. *A consultation is being held on the implementation of the Strategy and the involvement of disabled people, following views expressed by disabled people that there is too big a gap between national policy aims and local implementation. The deadline for the consultation responses is 20 June 2008. The ODI is planning to two large consultation events, one in York on 12 May and one in London on 4 June and will be supporting a number of smaller, more targeted consultation events.*

## General impacts on local services

8. *The report stresses that disabled people of all ages must be involved in how services are planned and delivered to ensure that individuals are supported in the ways that they choose. Joining up services to remove barriers to access will be key to this.*
9. *It is the Government's ambition that by 2013 disabled people have more choice and control over how their needs for support and/or equipment are met.*
10. *The Government wants every locality to have a single community based support system which focuses on all aspects of what people need to maximise their health and wellbeing and to participate in family and community life. The right of the individual disabled person to determine the kinds of services and support that they need will be at the heart of this reformed system.*

## Specific recommendations

11. *The Independent Living Strategy includes the following Government commitment to:*
  - *Develop a programme to build awareness and change attitudes in order to create support for an independent living approach, including undertaking action and learning sites and regional initiatives to strengthen the evidence-basis to inform future policy development and investment.*
  - *Enhance the understanding of health services' contribution to independent living.*
  - *Support the transformation of social care to deliver a system which will focus on timely, preventative and high quality personally tailored services, including developing a universal information, advice and advocacy service for people who need support in their lives.*
  - *Promoting a co-ordinated, strategic approach to investing in independent living for older disabled people, and ensuring that older disabled people's voices are heard and that they are enabled to participate in the development and delivery of services.*
  - *Ensuring a seamless transition into adulthood for young disabled people in all aspects of their life and promoting more joined-up working between health, education and social care to provide timely and flexible support needed by families affected by parental disability.*
  - *Take action to maximise disabled people's housing opportunities and choices, as outlined in the recent Lifetime Homes, Lifetime neighbourhoods report.*
  - *Consolidate progress made in the areas of training, information, and accessibility in public transport and consider action, including working with local authorities to ensure accessibility planning is reflected in Local Transport Plans and Local Area Agreements.*
  - *Monitoring progress on the aims of the Strategy via the new performance framework, in particular via the Equalities Public Services Agreement.*

## Implications for Wales

*The Strategy does not cover Wales.*

## Financial/Resource Implications

*None*